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SWITALSKI EXPOSES FLAW IN TRASH PACKAGE

Roseville Democrat says that bill could increase costs of waste disposal for local governments

LANSING- State Sen. Michael Switalski (D-Roseville) spoke out in a recent Senate speech against a bill that would establish a two-year hiatus on the opening of new landfills. The legislation, SB 506, could result in higher waste disposal costs for local cities, townships and villages.

“I appreciate the noble intentions of this bill, but it suffers from the law of unintended consequences,” said Sen. Switalski. “We’re violating a basic law of economics. If government limits the supply, the price will rise. That higher cost will be paid by local governments and their taxpayers. This is not a good time to raise costs for locals, especially when we are about to cut their revenue sharing again.”

SB 506 is one bill in a package of waste bills that passed the State Senate on Oct. 9. SB 506 would create a two-year ban on the construction of new landfills and prevent the expansion of existing landfills. The bill could result in less landfills being opened and would increase waste disposal costs to local municipalities at a time when the state of Michigan announced that it will have to cut spending to balance an anticipated \$898 million budget shortfall.

“We have a good package of bills that a vast majority of the members of the Senate supported, but I ask House members to give close attention to this bill,” said Sen. Switalski. “The rest of this package of bills is good. This particular bill needs to be reworked.”

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